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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Brighter Crop Prospects

Crop progress, for the country as a whole was about normal by May 1...weather conditions improved, crop prospects brighter than month ago.

Prospects good for Oats, Barley, Pastures

Oats in the South, fall sown barley and hay meadows and pastures throughout the country...condition among the brightest of record.

40 Million Bushels More Winter Wheat

Winter wheat prospects have improved. Production now estimated at 986 million bushels is up 40 million from a month ago. Winter wheat production last year, 645 million; 10-year average 800 million.

Hay Condition Best in 30 Years

Hay condition, 5 percentage points above average for May 1, is highest since 1922: pastures also 5 points above average and equal to record high. About the only poor pastures reported are in North Dakota, Texas, and New Mexico.

Spring Work About on Schedule

Spring work was mostly on schedule or advanced on May 1, except in several mid-Atlantic States, in Missouri, and in some inter-mountain areas where heavy snow was slow to melt.

Corn and Soybeans Plowing Advanced

Plowing for corn and soybeans was well advanced and acreages of these crops may exceed intentions because of shifts from small grains. Some acreages of oats and barley could not be planted before it was too late, particularly in Kansas, Nebraska and a few other sections.

Improved Fruit Prospects

Peach prospects in the 10 Southern States as a whole are a little better than the relatively good outturn last year. Orange crop (1951-52 season) is a new record; grapefruit down from both last year and average. Oranges are estimated at 119.5 million boxes; 116.9 million last year and 99.1 million average. Grapefruit, at 40.4 million boxes, compare with 46.6 million produced last year and 50.9 million 10-year average.

Outlook Good for "New-Crop" Citrus

The 1952-53 citrus outlook is favorable in the principal producing States of Florida and California, and much better than last season in Texas.

Small Rye Crop Indicated

Acreage in rye is reduced this year. Intended was only about 1.4 million acres compared with 1.7 million harvested for grain in '51. Rye crop, estimated at 17.8 million bushels, would compare with 21.4 million in '51 and about 28 million 10-year average. 1934 was another "small crop" year—about 16.3 million bushels.

Maple Sirup and Maple Sugar

Maple sirup production at 1.6 million gallons, is estimated at about 9 percent below the 1.8 million gallons produced last year. Maple sugar produced, at 189,000 pounds, is 5.5 percent smaller than last year.

Early Potatoes, Condition Above Average

Early Irish potatoes (10 Southern States and California)

were reported in about the same condition as a year earlier but a little above average. Condition is average or above in all States except North Carolina and California.

Milk Production Lower Than Usual For April

The 10.1 billion pounds of milk produced in April compare with 10.2 billion in April last year. Production was lower than usual for the month but weather was improving toward the end of the month, and rapidly developing pastures brought more favorable conditions for milk production. Total production January-April was 36 billion pounds compared with 36.2 billion first 4 months of 1951 and 36.3 billion 10-year average.

Egg Production Above A Year Ago

The total of 6.2 billion eggs laid in April was 3 percent more than in April last year but 2 percent below the 1941-50 average. Production for the first 4 months of this year was 23.8 billion compared with 22.4 billion year earlier and 21.4 billion 10-year average.

A Few More Layers Than Year Ago

The 344.2 million layers on farms in April were up 2 percent from year ago, but down 4 percent from average.

Fewer Chicks and Young Chickens

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching May 1 were estimated at 385.5 million, 5 percent less than year ago. Decreases were 1 percent in the South Central, 8 percent in the West North Central, 9 percent in the South Atlantic, 10 percent in the North Atlantic and 12 percent in the West.

Lower Chick Hatch

The total of 296.7 million chicks hatched in April was down 6 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent below the 1946-50 average. Relatively small hatch also indicated for May, based on number of eggs in incubators.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS
AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Mar. 15 1952	Apr. 15 1952	Apr. 15 1952
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.20	2.18	2.45
Corn, bu.dol.	1.65	1.68	1.76
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.4	10.3	13.3
Cotton, lb.ct.	36.72	37.30	34.35
Potatoes, bu.dol.	2.16	2.31	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	16.70	16.40	21.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	27.60	27.80	21.30
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	31.40	31.10	23.70
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	25.60	26.40	23.40
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ .767	1/ .743	.772
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.97	1/ 4.97	4.86
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	25.0	24.4	30.9
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 39.0	1/ 40.5	50.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

More Turkey Poults Hatched

Number of turkey poults hatched during April was 12 percent larger than in April last year. And turkey eggs in incubators May 1 numbered 10 percent more than a year earlier.

Last Years' Cotton Crop \$2.9 Billion

Based on season average price of 37.9 cents per pound, the 1951 cotton crop is valued at 2.9 billion dollars, the highest of record. The 1950 crop averaged 40.07 cents and was valued at \$2 billion.

1951 Cotton Crop, 15,130,000 Bales

A cotton crop of 15,130,000 bales for 1951 is indicated from final ginnings...tops 1950 by 5 million bales and the 10-year average by 3.1 million bales. The 27.9 million acres in cotton (July 1, 1951, revised) compare with 18.6 million in 1950.

Over 6 Million Tons of Cottonseed

The 6.3 million tons of cottonseed from 1951-crop ginnings compare with 4.1 million tons in 1950. Season average price of cotton seed was about \$69.30 per ton. Total production value, highest of record, was 439 million dollars. Value of cotton and cottonseed combined ran to 3.3 billion dollars.

Lint Yield Last Year 271.7 Pounds

The 1951 lint yield of 271.7 pounds per acre was nearly 6 pounds above average and compares with 269 pounds in 1950. Last year's yield per acre was below average in such important cotton States as Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and New Mexico.

Revised Tobacco Production Estimates

Revised estimate of last year's production of all tobacco is 2.3 billion pounds. This record volume is about 2 percent greater than the estimate in December...compares with 2 billion pounds harvested in 1950.

'51 Tobacco Crop Brought \$1.2 Billion

Value of the 1951 tobacco crop is estimated at 1.2 billion dollars, compared with about 1 billion dollars in 1950. Price averaged 51.2 cents pound in 1951; 51.7 in 1950.

Below Average Turpentine Production

The estimated 246,460 barrels of gum turpentine produced in the 1951-52 season (April 1, '51 through March '52) was 9 percent below the small crop of a year earlier; 1941-50 average was 287,000 barrels.

Strong Domestic Demand, Smaller Trade Abroad

The record economic activity in prospect for this year as a whole points to continued strong domestic demand. Some decline is expected, however, in exports of farm products during the rest of the year.

Farm Income Outlook

With average weather, total of products farmers sell and use at home this year probably will exceed 1951. Lower average prices this year than last tend to offset increased output, but it now appears that farmers' net income will be close to the \$14.9 billion realized last year.

Meat Animal Prices

Prices for meat animals are expected to rise seasonally during the next 2 or 3 months, except for higher grades of cattle, which may decline as marketings reach a peak. During the rest of 1952, pork production will fall below a year earlier with a higher output of beef, veal and lamb.

Prospective Feed Supplies

Stocks of corn, oats, and barley on April 1 were down from a year earlier by about 16 percent. Disappearance heavy, as farmers fed high moisture grain. Prospective feed supply per animal unit for 1952-53 feeding season is

about the same as in the 1951-52 season, but moderately smaller than during the years 1948-50.

Fats and Oil Prices Lower

The April price index of the 26 major fats and oils, except butter, was 53 percent below a year earlier and 50 percent below the 1947-49 average, stocks of primary food fats April 1 were half again larger than a year earlier and the largest in many years.

Farmers' Milk Prices to Average Higher

Outlook is for higher average prices to farmers for milk and butterfat than a year earlier...demand to continue high; supplies, though seasonally high, will be smaller than a year earlier for the rest of this year.

Fewer Dairy Cattle Move to Northeast

Net inshipments of dairy cattle into the 11 Northeastern States in 1951 amounted to 52 thousand head, down about a fifth from 1950. About 112 thousand were shipped in...60 thousand shipped out. (Details in BAE "Interstate Movement" report of May 15.)

Prices Received Down 7 Percent From Peak -Prices Paid Up 5 Percent

Prices received by farmers in April were about 7 percent below the peak of February 1951, while prices paid (including interest, taxes and wage rates) were up 5 percent...at a record level.

Over 60 Million Civilians At Work

A total of 60.1 million civilians were at work in April, up seasonally from 59.7 million in March. A year ago at this time the total was 60 million.

Only 1.6 million people were unemployed in April; 1.8 million in March. In April year ago 1.7 million were unemployed.

Big Percentage of U. S. Farms Owner-Operated

Nearly 75 percent of the farms of this country are now owner-operated, compared with only about 58 percent in 1930. An article in the May issue of BAE's Agricultural Situation shows the recent rise in farm ownership in the changing balance between agriculture and industry. The article is the first of three in a series on "Farms and Firms" by Louis H. Bean.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	April 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	290
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	289
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	100
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	278
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 294
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	510
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	1/ 586
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Apr. 1951	Jan.-Apr. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	36.2	36.0
Eggs, (bil.).....	22.4	23.8
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2/ 1667	2/1688
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2/ 123	2/ 148
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	2/ 2933	2/3393
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	2/ 4846	2/5347
1/ March figure.		
2/ Jan.-Mar. under Federal inspection.		